

Human Relations News

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from the MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

LEO P. CARLIN, MAYOR

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Vol. 1 No. 2

A bi-monthly summary of facts and trends in human relations and civil rights

October 1956

Central Ward Neighborhood Conference

The Urban League of Essex County in cooperation with the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, the Central Newark Community Council and the Fuld Neighborhood House will hold an open Citizens' Meeting on Tuesday, November 13th at 8 p.m. in the Fuld Neighborhood House at 71 Boyd Street, Newark.

Purpose of the conference is to assess and evaluate the major problems which confront Central Ward residents in their day to day life. The meeting is an outgrowth of Mayor Carlin's request that his Commission on Group Relations study the status of intergroup and community activities in Newark.

James Pawley, Director of the Urban League, announced that twenty discussion leaders are being trained to explore any and all topics which might be brought up in the small discussion groups.

All participants will have an opportunity to speak in small discussion groups on any subject which concerns the condition of group relations in their neighborhoods.

At the conclusion of these informal discussion sessions, Mayor Carlin, Di-

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DON'T FORGET

If you live anywhere in the Central Ward, you will want to attend the Conference on Group Relations to be held at 8 P.M. on Tuesday, November 13 in the Fuld Neighborhood House.

Mayor Carlin Welcomes 2,000 To United Nations Program

For the second year, the Mayor's Committee for Newark's United Nations Anniversary Celebration under the chairmanship of Mrs. Sylvia Josephson, drew a crowd of two thousand persons.

The variety program which featured the United States Marine Corps Band and four U. N. Delegates from Guatemala, the Philippines, Israel and Liberia was opened with a warm welcome address by Mayor Leo P. Carlin. He thanked the representatives of the 101 Newark organizations which worked for three months to make U. N. Day an exciting and successful observance.

Prior to the major program on the evening of U. N. Day, four other minor events took place. At 3 p.m., Mayor Carlin met the international

guests in the rotunda of City Hall and showed them the well-planned exhibit of the work of U. N. Specialized Agencies which covered all the major social, economic, educational and humanitarian activities of these full-time agencies. At 3:45 p.m., U. N. Square in Washington Park was rededicated in honor of the eleven-year old children of our community. Mrs. Morton Stern, president of the A.A.U.N. Newark Chapter, arranged this ceremony.

At 4 p.m., the Newark Museum opened its exhibit of art work done by

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Mayor Leo P. Carlin welcomes United Nations guests to Newark. From left to right, Dr. Jose Raul Bennett of Guatemala; Dr. Eliezer Yapan of Israel; Mr. Victorio D. Caprio of Philippine and Mr. John D. Cox of Liberia.

Leadership Training In Community Relations

The fall educational program of the Commission includes a ten session course on Leadership Training in Community Relations conducted at the main branch of the YM-YWCA. This course is co-sponsored with the "Y" as a part of its adult education program. The purpose of the Workshop is to equip interested citizens with those techniques and abilities for becoming effective leaders in the job of improving intergroup relations on the neighborhood and community levels. This workshop is designed to meet the individual needs and problems of each participant through informal discussions and practical work sessions.

The course began on October 9th with fifteen participants from many backgrounds and with varied interests. A cross section of the occupations represented in the course are home-maker, social worker and electronic equipment designer. The interests include how to become a better participant in functioning as a community leader. Each participant expressed his

particular problem or interest which covered the areas of public housing, changing neighborhoods, neighborhood and block organizations, community recreation programs and preparation for leadership.

These special problems as well as means of handling them will be explored in depth during the informal discussion periods utilizing the experience and knowledge of the course members with the consultation of specialists in the field of human relations.

Mr. Sidney Seff, a member of the Adult Education Committee, YM-YWCA and Mr. Walter D. Chambers, Assistant Director, Mayor's Commission on Group Relations are co-directors of this workshop.

Neighborhood Survey Continues, New Ideas

As a result of the official meeting of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations in September, several new ideas will be utilized for studying the status of intergroup relations in this community. C. Willard Heckel, Chairman of the Commission invited members of the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council to sit with the Commission and suggest ways and means of gathering information on group relations as well as methods for improving present conditions. The group decided the major approach should be through small discussion group meetings in which members of the Mayor's Commission confer with neighborhood and block groups. This course was chosen in preference to the larger open public meetings.

As a follow-up on this approach, the following meetings were held: Clinton Hill Executive Committee; Farley Avenue Block Association; Roseville Community Council; Shanley Avenue Association; Seymour Avenue Association and the Association of Community Councils.

The Central Ward Neighborhood Conference to be held November 13th will be the first open public meeting of the kind which was first agreed upon by the Commission in its effort to implement Mayor Carlin's request for a city-wide survey of group relations and community activities.

Sales to All Races Asked by 2 Churches

The conventions of two major Christian denominations have recently called on their members to open housing on a non-discriminatory, non-segregated basis.

On May 30 the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the U.S.A., representing 2,700,000 members, approved a resolution urging church members to sell homes to minority families. The resolution called upon Christians "to see as of first importance the need of minority families for equal housing opportunities and adequate housing, and to make their houses available to all qualified purchasers without regard to race." The resolution also recommended "sessions to bring Christians together in

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UN PROGRAM

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children of all U. N. Member-Countries. Mr. Franklin Conklin, Chairman of the Museum, welcomed the international guests and the public to this fascinating display.

The Newark Free Public Library cooperated with other City agencies in arranging a display of all books, pamphlets and periodicals dealing with the work of United Nations.

At 6:30 p.m., the Delegates gathered at Christopher Columbus Homes to witness a program of music and dancing prepared by members of the Tenants' Council. At the conclusion of the entertainment, Michael Reynolds, president of the Tenants' Council, and Mayor Carlin welcomed the guests to a dinner prepared by many of the women who are active in the Christopher Columbus Tenants' Council.

The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, believing that the above kinds of programs promote better understanding and more amicable relations between all groups in this metropolitan area, coordinated these functions under the able guidance of Mrs. Sylvia Josephson, chairman of United Nations Week.

CENTRAL WARD

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rector Sugrue of the Police Department and other city leaders will consult with the residents on some of the major problems which come out of the discussions groups.

This Conference is the first large Ward Meeting to be held since the Mayor's Commission began surveying practices and attitudes in Newark neighborhoods. Eight smaller neighborhood meetings have already been held in Clinton Hill and Roseville areas in cooperation with the Community Councils and Block Associations of those neighborhoods. The findings of these hearings will be published in a report after all neighborhoods have been surveyed.

**REMEMBER THE
TENTH ANNUAL
NAIRO CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 28-30
BELLEVUE-STRATFORD
PHILADELPHIA, PA.**

Organizations Cooperating with the Mayor's Commission

Fuld Neighborhood House

Fuld Neighborhood House is an interracial, interdenominational agency, dedicated to the traditional Settlement House philosophy of meeting the needs of its surrounding community as they occur. This policy asks for constant vigilance, for utmost flexibility in programming, and for a staff composition which enables the agency to render a wide variety of services. Changes in program and stress on one or the other type of activity reflect changes in community needs throughout the years. The work of Fuld Neighborhood House is carried out by different departments as follows:

1. Day Care Center for Children of 3-8 years of age. Full day care, including Nursery School and Kindergarten activities, play groups, meals and nap periods.
2. Groupwork and recreation for children, teenagers, adults and the aged.
3. Day Camp for children of 13-16 years of age.
4. Family counseling and referral services.
5. Community Organization.
6. Joint activities in the field of intergroup relations and community organization with The Rev. Wm. P. Hayes Homes Tenants League, an affiliated organization.

Fuld Neighborhood House is a member agency of the National Federation of Settlements and the Welfare Federation of Newark, Irvington and West Hudson.

National Conference of Christians and Jews

The National Conference of Christians and Jews is a religiously oriented organization of individuals who are working toward the amelioration of the prejudices and group tensions which mar man's interaction with other men. It is not an organization of religious officials representing their respective religions in order to bring about any union or amalgamation of religious bodies, or to change or modify any of the distinctive beliefs of its members.

As a non-profit organization, financed by the contributions of civic-minded individuals and groups, the N.C.C.J. works through an educational approach

to "promote justice, amity, understanding and cooperation among Protestants, Catholics, and Jews".

Illustrative of its educational work in New Jersey, are the various Police Institutes which have been held with Seton Hall University, and Rutgers University as sponsors. In addition, the Essex County Police Chief's School has expanded its program in Community Relations as a result of the success of the initial program there. The Irvington Police Department held a three (3) day Institute during April of 1956. The Paterson Police Department and the Fair Lawn Police Department have begun Police Institutes in Human Relations.

Social and youth workers, teachers, community leaders, and police officers took part this past summer in another phase of the National Conference's educational program. A total of one hundred eighteen (118) of these people attended one or more of the three Workshops held at Rutgers University.

The Six Week Workshop in its 10th year has trained a total of 389 people. The One Week Workshop in Community Leadership at the end of its sixth year has enrolled 285 people. The Advanced Workshop in Modern Trends in Human Relations in its first year enrolled 38. Since 1947, a total of 712 people have attended Workshops. Teachers comprised 82 per cent of this total.

Tenant Relations Division of Newark Housing Authority

There are 12 low-rent housing projects operated by the Newark Housing Authority, and occupied by 7,385 families.

The Division of Tenant Relations was created by the Authority in recognition of the need for specialized services to assist management with problems which include rent delinquency, bad housekeeping, tenant maintenance, juvenile behavior, friction among and between families, and occasional conflicts of inter-group living in general.

The Tenant Relations staff consists of a small group of skilled workers who visit referred families and work with them in a concerted effort to overcome their difficulties. Families re-

quiring welfare services are directed to the proper agencies, with the Tenant Relations Division acting as liaison. Out of 501 referrals handled by the Division during its first fiscal year, 30% resulted in improvement.

The Tenant Relations Division also helps the tenants to organize tenants councils, and the tenants are encouraged to participate in group and community activities.

Thus, by living, planning, playing, and working together, tenants achieve a better understanding of each other and of their roles as neighbors and citizens. The Division of Tenant Relations is motivated by the desire to promote better interpersonal and inter-group relations among all its families and the neighboring communities.

The Newark Schools Committee on Goodwill and Understanding

The Committee on Goodwill and Understanding of the Newark Schools was established in 1944. It acts on the basis of authority delegated by the Superintendent of Schools. Any action taken in situations outside of the routine performance of specified functions must be approved by the Superintendent. As an integral part of the entire school program, the Committee endeavors to keep all members of the school personnel aware of the importance of the human relations aspect of all phases of the educational program.

The objective of the program is the development of desirable attitudes and habits of thought and action in Newark school children so that they can live comfortably with themselves and others.

Committee activities may be categorized in the following manner:

1. Preparation, publication and distribution of materials pertaining to the development of better interpersonal relations.

2. Participation in professional improvement courses, workshops and conferences.

3. Study and discussion, with individuals or groups, of potential conflict situations for the purpose of

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Catholic Digest Sees Gap In Principle and Practice

"Eight out of ten whites agree with the Declaration of Independence that 'all men are created equal'. Seven out of ten say they like, rather than dislike most Negroes. Yet only four out of ten would be willing to live next door to Negroes. Only five out of ten would be willing to live in the same neighborhood."

"Of northern whites who express a wish to do away with segregation, a good fourth say they would refuse to live next door to Negroes."

These statements, illustrating a wide gap between principle and practice, are quoted from a recent nationwide survey made by the *Catholic Digest*, reported in its August issue. Two-thousand interviews in all parts of the country revealed that "in theory most whites accept Negroes; in practice, few do." "The only explanation for the contradictory answers" concludes the Digest, "is that many whites are guilty of contradictory thinking."

(Reprinted from *Trends in Housing*)

NAACP NEWS

The Newark NAACP Branch more than doubled its membership during the 1956 drive for the first time in many, many years, a final report by Francis Hoggard, membership chairman, made at the October meeting, revealed.

When the drive began last Spring, the Branch had a little over 1,000 members. When it closed the total membership had soared to 2,200, with more applications still coming in.

Membership in the NAACP is open to all Americans, except Communist Party members. A larger number of white people, many of them active in

civic, religious, intercultural and business and professional activities joined the Newark Branch this year for the first time.

Meetings, open to the general public, are held every fourth Thursday in the Parish House of St. Philip's Episcopal Church, High and W. Market Streets, beginning at 8 p.m.

SALES TO ALL RACES

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covenants of open occupancy which will stem the tendency toward panic selling and stabilize their neighborhoods on a non-segregated basis."

The Assembly resolution directed churchgoers' attention to studies available from the Presbyterian Department of Social Education and Action, demonstrating that property values do not necessarily decline but often rise after purchases by nonwhites.

On June 26 the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches, representing 1,350,000 members, exhorted churchgoers to "support non-segregated practices in selling, buying and leasing property," and urged "real estate agents, builders, mortgagors and government housing agents to follow nondiscriminatory practices in their businesses."

The General Council noted that residential segregation was hampering integration in other phases of life, even where people might otherwise be accepted on their own merits. The Congregationalists also pointed out that property values in mixed neighborhoods stabilize at levels similar to those in all-white neighborhoods.

The Race Relations Department of the Congregational Christian Church is shipping kits of appropriate literature to churches throughout the country.

(Reprinted from *Trends in Housing*)

SELECTED READING

Andrew & Marjorie Tracker, New York: How to Work with Groups. Whitelife Press, 1952.

Chapter 7 is on "How to Work with a Large Group Meeting."

Haddon, Margaret M., *Feelings are Facts*, Reprint by Nat'l Conference of Christians & Jews, 1952.

American Jewish Committee, *Anti-Semitic Activity in the United States, 1954-1956*.

"A Record and Appraisal."

Barton, Rebecca Chalmers, *Our Human Rights*, Public Affairs Press, Washington, D.C. 1955. \$3.50.

Clark, Kenneth S., *Prejudice and Your Child*, Boston, Mass. 1952. \$1.50.

"The problems of prejudice and a program for action."

Abner, Charles, *Forbidden Neighbors*, Harper & Bros. 1952. \$2.00.

"A study of race prejudice in housing."

Harberg, Will, *Protestant, Catholic, Jew, Double-Edged*, Inc., Garden City, New York. 1955. \$4.00.

"An essay in American religious sociology."

Cole, Mildred Wells and Stewart G. Minowitz and the American Frontier, Harper & Bros., New York. 1954. \$4.00.

"A conflict of principle and practice."

Finger, Alton J. & Simpson, George Boston, *Racial and Cultural Minorities*, Harper and Bros. New York. \$6.00.

"An analysis of prejudice and discrimination."

Harmon, Edwin S., *The Freedom Reader*, Duckett Series on Common Publications, 1955. \$1.00.

"A collection of materials on civil rights and civil liberties in America, including excerpts from Supreme Court decisions and commentary of eminent lawyers, government officials, political scientists and opinion molders."

Lee, Alfred McClung, *Intolerance without Brotherhood*, Beacon Press Boston. 1955. \$1.95.

"A campus report on racial and religious prejudice."

ORGANIZATIONS

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changing them from a mere conflict situation to a socially educative experience.

4. Periodic evaluation of the improvement of person to person relationships developed in and through the school system.

5. Evaluation of the improvement of understanding and cooperation between the school and parents and between the school and community groups.

Underlying the work of the Committee is the belief that children who feel secure in their school relationships and who learn to work and play cooperatively with mutual respect for each other in the school situation will develop into the type of citizens necessary for a democratic society.

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